

Passed 3d of  
Jan. 18co.

An ACT to regulate elections. Lib. JG. No. 3. fol. 287.

A Supplement ch. 76.

Persons named  
appointed com-  
missioners, &c.

\* 1798, ch. 115.

BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the persons herein after named shall be and they are hereby appointed and authorised, or a majority of them, or a majority of the survivors of them, in each county, commissioners to lay off the county for which they are appointed into the number of districts which by the act, \* entitled, An act to alter, abolish and repeal, certain parts of the constitution and form of government of this state as are therein mentioned, such county is divided into, carefully making the several districts as nearly equal as possible, having regard to population, extent, and the convenience of the voters; and each election district shall be numbered by said commissioners, and known thereafter by such number; and also to make choice of a place in each district, at which the elections shall be held, as nearly central as shall be practicable, having regard to the circumstances aforesaid, and the accommodation of persons attendant upon such election; and the said commissioners shall, on or before the fifteenth day of July next, deliver to the clerk of the county court of their respective counties a description, in writing, under their hands and seals, specifying plainly the boundaries and number of each district, and also the place in each district where the election for such district shall be held, and the said clerk shall record the same in the records of the county.

Who shall  
meet, &c.

II. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the commissioners appointed by virtue of this act shall meet at the usual place of holding the county court in their respective counties on the first Monday of April next, for the purpose of performing the duties imposed by this act, and the commissioners or commissioner so meeting may adjourn from time to time, and from place to place, until the whole is completed.

County courts  
to meet, &c.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the county court of each county shall meet between the fifteenth day of July and the fifteenth day of August next, on such day as the judge of the district shall determine for each respective county in his district, and appoint three persons for each election district, resident therein, who, or a majority, or any one of whom in case of the non-attendance of the other two, shall be the judges or judge of the election for such district from the time of their appointment until a new appointment; and the said court shall, every year thereafter, at their spring term, appoint judges as aforesaid in each election district for holding elections therein until displaced by a new appointment; and the said judges, or such of them as shall attend the said election, shall be conservators of the peace during the continuance thereof, and shall have power and authority to preserve the peace, and to commit offenders for any breach thereof, in like manner as any justice of the peace for such county; and in case any of the said judges shall die, resign, remove out of the district, or become otherwise in the opinion of said court disqualified to act as judge, the said court may, at any meeting thereafter, appoint a person as judge in his place; and at every appointment of a judge or judges as aforesaid, the clerk of the county court shall record the same, and make out a warrant therefor; and the clerk shall, within five days thereafter, deliver every such warrant to the sheriff of his county; and it shall be the duty of the sheriff, within ten days after receiving the same, to deliver the same to the person or persons so appointed, or leave it at his or their last place of abode, under the penalty of fifty dollars on the clerk or sheriff respectively who shall neglect this duty.

Two to be a  
quorum, &c.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That any two or more judges of such court shall be a quorum to make the said appointments, but if only two judges shall meet, and not be able to agree on any fit person or persons to fill the said appointments, then the said judges shall cast lots for a proper person or persons to fill said appointment, and he or they in whose favour the said lot shall fall shall be the person or persons to be appointed judge or judges of the election for the district.

Penalty for ne-  
glect, &c.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That any judge so appointed, who shall not attend at nine o'clock of the morning of the day for holding any election in his district, shall forfeit fifty dollars for every such neglect, unless prevented by sickness, or other sufficient cause in the opinion of the court and jury before whom the prosecution therefor shall be heard, tried and determined.

Warrant to go  
to the sheriff,  
&c.

VI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That in case of an election of delegates, or a delegate or a representative in congress, to fill a vacancy, the warrant for such election shall go to the sheriff of the county or counties where the election is to be held, who shall appoint the day for holding the same, of which ten days notice at the least, (exclusive of the day of notice and the day of election,) shall be given by said sheriff, and the said sheriff shall serve a copy of the said warrant on each of the judges in  
each